

Busiest Christmas Time in the History of the Postoffice.

Crowds at the Stamp Window Eager to Get Off Tokens of Remembrance to Friends—Clerks Pushed to Their Capacity—Tired Carriers Not Without Hope of Appreciation.

One of the busiest places in the city today is the Postoffice. The clerks at the stamp windows from early morning until late afternoon have been in one continual rush, weighing packages the contents of which will gladden the hearts of the recipients tomorrow. The line of people at the stamp windows waiting their turn is the largest ever seen on any one day in the Postoffice. Postmaster Merritt said this morning that the stamp mail received yesterday from other cities and the number of packages, parcels, and letters mailed at the office exceed all past records.

"Every piece of mail," said he, "will be handled and distributed without any delay, notwithstanding that this is the busiest Christmas ever experienced by the office. We have two shifts of carriers and distributing clerks at work, and the quickness with which they sort the mail is marvellous. Under the law passed last session a week's work consists of forty-eight hours, and the schedule is now so arranged that the carrier can work nine or ten hours on any one day. The difference is made up by shorter hours of labor the next day, but he can't work more than the forty-eight hours during the week. There are twenty-five sub-stations in addition to the regular ones at work, and will continue during the rush, which will last several days. The unusually heavy holiday mail is an evidence of the country's prosperity. The information is that the mail is equally heavy in other large cities."

While Christmas time always increases the burdens of the carrier, it also has its recompense, for in the business section of the city, as well as the residential portion, the people along the route invariably remember the faithful carrier in the way of something substantial.

Washington Stock Exchange.

Sales—Washington Traction and Electric 41-2; \$1,000,000 of 5% bonds; Lanston Monotype 100-10 1/2; American Graphophone Company, common, 62-10; Washington Market Co. 5-13; After call—American Graphophone Co., preferred, 100-10 3/4; Union Trust and Storage Co. 5-14; Washington Gas 5-15 1/2.

GOVERNMENT BONDS.

U. S. 4's, 1900, Q. J.	116	117
U. S. 4's, R. 1925	133	139
U. S. 4's, C, 1925	138	139
U. S. 5's, C, 1904, Q. F.	114	115
U. S. 3's, R, 1908, Q. F.	110	111
U. S. 3's, R, 1908, R. C. F.	110	111
U. S. 2's, R, 1900-30, Q. J.	105	106
U. S. 2's, C. 1900-30, Q. J.	135-4	106-4